

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IT

SUBJ: ITALIA MEDIA REACTION TO NAC MINISTERIAL

1. ITALIAN NEWS MEDIA, WHICH HAD USHERED IN NATO MINISTERIAL WITH EMPHASIS ON US-EUROPEAN TENSIONS AND DIFFICULTIES FACING SECRETARY KISSINGER, HAVE REPORTED CONCLUSION OF NAC ON HIGHLY POSITIVE NOTE. GENERAL THRUST OF COMMENT, INCLUDING MASS CIRCULATION LEFTIST PUBLICATION, WAS THAT WHILE MANY PROBLEMS STILL REMAIN, THE COUNCIL MEETING NEVERTHELESS ENDED IN RECONCILIATION AND A GREATLY EASED ATMOSPHERE. THE SECRETARY RECEIVED MUCH PERSONAL CREDIT FOR THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT. MEDIA ALSO EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE FOR EUROPE OF SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP.

2. TYPICAL CHANGE OF MOOD REFLECTED IN RESPECTED CORRIERE DELLA SERA, WHICH, WHILE PREVIOUSLY STRESSING "CRISIS" WITHIN ALLIANCE AND SAYING THAT "MORE DIFFICULTY THAN EXPECTED" HAD CROPPED UP AT OUTSET OF MEETING, REPORTED DEC.

12 NOT ONLY THAT NAC HAD ENDED IN RECONCILIATION BUT THAT EUROPEANS HAD SUPPORTED SECRETARY'S OIL POLICY IN HIS UPCOMING TALKS WITH THE ARABS. PAPER PROMINENTLY NOTED COMMUNIQUE'S ALLUSION TO THE IMPORTANCE OF ATLANTIC SOLIDARITY AND THE NEED TO IMPROVE

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US-EUROPEAN CONSULTATIONS.

3. ROME'S /IL MESSAGGERO,/ WHICH HAS FREQUENTLY ADOPTED ANTI-AMERICAN VIEWPOINT AND GAVE HEAVY PLAY BEFORE THE MINISTERIALS TO DEEPENING US-EUROPEAN DIFFICULTY OVER THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, REPORTED DEC. 12 THAT WHILE NATO'S BASIC PROBLEMS REMAIN, ITS CURRENT DIFFERENCES WERE OVERCOME AND THAT TENSION EASED IN THE FINAL PHASE OF THE MEETING. IT NOTED THAT "NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER MAY BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR NIXON'S PLANNED EUROPEAN TRIP NEXT SPRING."

4. CENTER-RIGHT /IL TEMPO,/ WHICH HAD PREDICTED "TUG-OF-WAR" BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE US WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE THE ALLIANCE'S FUTURE, HEADLINED TODAY THAT THE ALLIES HAD REACHED "FULL AGREEMENT ON NATO PERSPECTIVES."

5. NATIONAL RADIO COMMENTATOR REPORTED THAT "NATO COUNCIL ENDED IN RELAXED AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE. TENSIONS AND EXPECTATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL AND FACT THAT IT WAS FIRST MEETING BETWEEN KISSINGER AND EUROPEAN ALLIES HAD CREATED NERVOUSNESS. BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO CRISIS AND THERE WILL BE NONE IN NATO. KISSINGER AGAIN STRESSED THAT US RESPECTFUL OF OTHER PEOPLES' FEELING AND WILL FAVOR EUROPEAN POLITICAL UNITY. ATLANTIC ALLIANCE STRONGER NOW AFTER FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS." BEAUDRY

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